

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

It is an object of this invention to prevent a false edge phenomenon in quantization processing for a multilevel image. In order to achieve this object, according to the invention, (1) a reference threshold ($C_{\text{threshold}}$) to be used for error diffusion for a cyan (C) component is obtained on the basis of a density value M of a magenta (M) component. (2) A threshold modulation amount table is referred to by using a combination of a density value C of the C component and the density value M of the M component. (3) A correction threshold modulation amount $C_{\text{threshold}}'$ is determined by adding the threshold modulation amount obtained in the second step to the reference threshold $C_{\text{threshold}}$ to be used for error diffusion for the C component. (4) A density C_t after error diffusion for the C component is compared with the correction threshold $C_{\text{threshold}}'$. If the density C_t is higher, a quantization value binDataC of the target pixel is set to 255. If the density C_t is lower, the quantization value is set to 0. The same processing as described above is also performed for the cyan component.

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